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Theognis, 147, at school could at any time make justice the virtue *par excellence*. Cf. *Gorgias*, 477 C and 527 B. On page 317, *Republic*, 602 D, is quoted as a distinct advance on the thought of the *Phædo*. But the passage is almost identical with *Protag.*, 356 D, which our author thinks earlier than the *Phædo*. Page 373, the innocent phrase, *Theætetus*, 184 C, D, "soul or whatever we must call it," is pressed to this result: "In earlier work Plato used the term soul as free from every ambiguity. Here we see already a trace of doubts about the existence of the soul," etc. A comparison of *Crito*, 48 A, and *Symposium*, 218 A, will show that the phrase is a harmless literary flourish.

Obviously this sort of thing is endless. There is no limit to the false points that can be made about a subtle dramatic writer like Plato by means of irrelevant parallels, confident assertions that this or that idea occurs for the first time in such or such a place, and exaggeration of the significance of casual phrases in disregard of the total context. The illustrations here given are not one fourth of those noted. I do not wish to seem discourteous. Mr. Lutoslawski's book, as I said in the beginning, shows him to be a very clever man. There is room for interminable debate as to the value of his general method and his conception of Plato's development. But his reasoning from page to page is a series of fallacies resting on misapprehensions of the fair meaning of the text and context of his author. That is a fact. And a critic surely should be permitted to state facts.

PAUL SHOREY.

LA STRUCTURE DU PROTOPLASMA ET LES THÉORIES SUR L'HÉRÉDITÉ. By *Yves Delage*, Professeur à la Sorbonne. Paris: C. Reinwald & Co. (Schleicher Frères). Pp., xiv+878.

As all roads lead to Rome, so do the current problems of biology find their focus in the problem of the cell. The present volume embodies the most important results which have been reached by the eager and almost feverish researches of the last decade upon the structure and physiology of the ultimate optical unit of living matter.

Professor Delage devotes some most interesting pages to a statement of the reasons that induced him to undertake his laborious task. From the point of view of method he would distinguish four great periods in zoölogy: the first period being typified in the studies of the external form and markings of organisms, undertaken by such workers as Aristotle, Linné, and Buffon, and extending into the early part of the present century. The second period is distinguished by the recognition of the necessity for delving deeper into the recesses of the organism; many observers had felt this need, but Cuvier was the first to stamp dissection as a real method of investigation and to carry it out to its logical consequences. The impulse given by Cuvier lasted for half a century and has not yet spent its force. A third period, however, may be said to have begun with the establishment of marine laboratories, which introduced a different method of work as important as those that had gone before and

gave birth to the new and absorbing science of embryology. The fourth period, likewise, may be said to be characterised by a new method, the extension and elaboration of histological technique, which in its turn made possible for the first time an accurate study of the cell. It is thus that our author paves the way for an indictment of certain tendencies in modern biology, which is certainly full of discretion as well as truth. Professor Delage sees that some of his fellow-workers are still stranded on the shallows of the old methods, while the main current of biological research is sweeping by into wider and deeper channels. To illustrate his point, he gives a leaf out of his own experience. "I made my *début* in the natural sciences by a monograph upon the circulatory system of the edriophthalmous crustaceans. I expended much time and some skill in injecting a number of these animals. And with what result? The knowledge that the heart has such a form and such dimensions, that it sends so many arteries forward (four or five more than was supposed), and so many back, the existence of which was not previously suspected, and that there exists in front of the nervous system a remarkable vessel that was not known before.

"Of what value is this? In what respect has it enlarged or modified our conception of the crustacean or of the circulatory function? The really important fact was made known long before by Milne Edwards when he showed that the blood came to the heart from the gills, was launched by the heart into the arteries which conduct it to the organs of the body, and that it passes finally into the general body cavity and into lacunæ by which it finds its way to the respiratory apparatus. Beyond this what does it matter that such a one of the mouth-parts receives its artery from such a point of the aorta or some one of the branches? We have not to make surgical operations upon these animals."

This all has a singularly familiar ring and may perhaps serve to stir other than French biologists to a sense of some sort of distinction between the essential and the non-essential. Professor Delage takes the broad view that it is our present task to attack the great problem of general biology, not in a general final assault but by a slow and patient yet sure approach. "One should no longer content oneself, as so many do to-day, with dissecting, staining, sectioning, drawing whatever happens to be not yet dissected, stained, sectioned, or drawn. All these things must be done no longer to fill a minute lacuna in our anatomical or histological knowledge, but to solve some biological problem however small." It is the *decisive experiment* or *decisive observation* for which we should strive.

The point of view of the work will be easily inferred from these extracts. The book itself is divided into four parts: The Available Data (about one-third of the volume), Special Theories, General Theories, and the author's own conclusions and summing-up. Nowhere else will be found a clearer or more interesting portrayal of the present situation of biological investigation. The burning questions of heredity, variation, and sex, and the special themes of regeneration, cellular division, the rôle of the nucleus, and the significance of the centrosome, are here dis-

cussed with a lucidity and a wealth of illustration and reference which should aid in stimulating research and in diverting the industry and zeal of many workers into lines of activity where every stroke will count and every new fact will mean some real progress.

There are a few simple figures and diagrams in the text, the scope of the volume apparently forbidding very copious illustration. A comprehensive bibliography is appended to the volume, and there is an index more adequate than is frequently the case in books of this sort. The press work is admirable.

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EDWIN O. JORDAN.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE IDEA OF GOD : AN INQUIRY INTO THE ORIGINS OF RELIGION. By *Grant Allen*. New York : Henry Holt and Company. 1897. Pages ix, 447.

Whatever may be the ultimate position assigned to Mr. Grant Allen's work, there can be no doubt that in many respects it is a remarkable production. It must be so accounted if for no other reason than that its whole argument is based on the conception of the continued life of the dead, a conception which is substituted for the animism which since its formulation by Dr. E. B. Tylor has become accepted almost universally as expressing the general idea entertained by primitive man in relation to the observed activities of nature. Of course Mr. Allen is not the first to make that change, or rather to recognise the important rôle to be assigned to the spirits of dead men in primitive belief. This was done particularly by Mr. Herbert Spencer ; and in my own *Evolution of Morality* the same ground was taken, as it was later by Mr. J. G. Frazer in his very able work *The Golden Bough* to which the author of the present volume expresses his deep obligations. Mr. Allen regards his work as a reconciliation between the schools of humanists and animists headed respectively by Mr. Spencer and Mr. Frazer, with a leaning towards the former, but at the same time as giving an original synthesis of the subject. It must be supposed, therefore, to have considerable novelty and if half the claims made for it in this respect be well founded, Mr. Allen's work will justify itself, whatever may be the fate of its main conclusion.

In his Preface, the author furnishes a list of the views which he considers novel, and as it gives a good idea of the contents of his work, its chief features may be reproduced here. He refers to two points especially as new : the complete demarcation of religion, as practice or worship, from mythology, and "the important share assigned in the genesis of most existing religious systems to the deliberate manufacture of gods by killing." This is one of the cardinal notions of the book a large portion of which is assigned to its development. Among its other novel ideas, Mr. Allen enumerates the following : "the establishment of three successive stages in the conception of the life of the dead, which might be summed up as corpse-worship, ghost-worship, and shade-worship, and which answer to the three stages of preservation or mummification, burial, and cremation ; . . . the entirely new